

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request consideration of the subject application as amended herein. A Request for Continued Examination (RCE) is filed herewith. This Amendment is submitted in response to the Final Office Action mailed June 19, 2006. Claims 1-20 and 22-24 are rejected.

In this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended. It is respectfully submitted that the amendment does not add new matter.

Applicants reserve all rights with respect to the applicability of the Doctrine of equivalents.

Claims 1-20 and 22-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shkedy (USPN 6,260,024) in view of Chinnappan (USPN 2002/0011187).

In independent claims 1 and 22, applicants claim assigning a unique number to each group of functionally equivalent components. As acknowledged by the Examiner, Shkedy does not teach or suggest this limitation. See, e.g., Office Action dated 09/23/05, page 5, ¶11 to page 6 ¶12. The Examiner relies on Chinnappan to teach this limitation:

Chinnappan subsequently teaches that a feature identified by a PID, such as a manufacturer assigned PID, may alternatively be individually identified using a FID (paragraph 46), wherein the FID is not part of the globally unique identifier. The resulting embodiment teaches a globally unique identifier (GUID) which identifies products with identical features, wherein some GUIDs are further associated with an FID, denoting the manufacturer's product or part number. Claims 1 and 22 recite for each group of functionally equivalent components there is one unique number and a plurality of supplier generated functional part numbers. Likewise, Chinnappan teaches products with identical features having identical GUIDs, and being associated with different FIDs for the manufacturer assigned product identifier.

(Office Action dated 06/19/06, p. 3; Advisory Action dated 9/25/06, p.2).

Chinnappan goes on to teach that the manufacturer assigned PID, which may be different for functionally equivalent components, may alternatively be individually identified using an FID, wherein the FID is not part of the globally unique identifier, and therefore the functionally equivalent components would have identical GUIDs regardless of the manufacturer assigned FID number.

(Advisory Action dated 9/25/06, p.2).

In the areas cited by the Examiner, Chinnappan reads as follows:

GUID 100 may also include or be associated with a feature identifier (FID). As described above, a CID 110 and a PID 120 may be used to uniquely identify a product having a unique set of features.... One or more of the group of features identified by a PID may be individually identified using an FID. For example, if a buyer 20 wants to identify the color of ink in a particular pen (the pen identified using a CID 110 and PID 120), then the buyer 20 may do so by including the FID associated with ink color with the CID 110 and PID 120 in a search. The search results may then include the color of the ink that is used in the identified product. Alternatively, an FID may be used to specify a particular feature (such a blue ink) as a search criteria when searching for a product (such as felt-tip pens).

(Chinnappan, p. 6, ¶46) (emphasis added).

Applicants agree with the Examiner that Chinnappan discloses identifying a product with a GUID (globally unique identifier) to uniquely identify the product, and an FID (feature identifier) to identify a particular feature or a group of features of the product uniquely identified by the GUID.

However, there is no support in Chinnappan's disclosure for Examiner's statement that "Chinnappan teaches products with identical features having identical GUIDs," (Office Action dated 06/19/06, p. 3). Further, there is no support in Chinnappan's disclosure for Examiner's statement that "functionally equivalent components would have identical GUIDs," (Advisory Action dated 9/25/06, p.2).

Each product has its own unique GUID. Regardless of whether an FID is included in a GUID, each product is always identified at least using the CID and PID. In support, applicants refer to the pen example given in Chinnappan's ¶46, in which a pen is "identified using a CID 110 and PID 120," and there is a FID associated with the feature of the ink color. Further, a PID "uniquely identifies the particular product from among the plurality of products categorized in the product class uniquely identified by the CID." (Chinnappan, Abstract). In this way, because the PID is always unique, whether a GUID includes only the CID and PID, or includes the CID, PID, and the FID, the GUID is always unique.

Applicants respectfully submit that Chinnappan does not teach or suggest

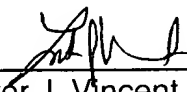
assigning a unique number to each group of functionally equivalent components, as claimed.

As neither Shkedy nor Chinnappan teaches or suggests each and every limitation of independent claims 1 and 22, the combination does not render obvious claims 1 and 22 and associated dependent claims.

If there are any additional charges, please charge them to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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